

From: Dennis
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 8:14pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I am sending this e-mail to protest the proposed settlement between Microsoft and the government of the United States.

I have been a software developer for over 18 years. I have seen the birth of the PC and watched as it has become a vital part of our everyday lives. The computer has been both my livelihood and hobby for a long time. I have used Microsoft products in the past and I do now. I use the best tools for the current job. Sometimes that's Microsoft, sometimes it's not.

Over the years I have watched Microsoft grow from basically a garage operation to a massive global company that has unbelievable say in the direction of the computer industry. Apparently, Microsoft has forgotten, or never knew, that with that immense power comes great responsibility.

I believe that Microsoft has damaged the computer industry. Due to their incredible marketing and legal might, they have forced PC manufacturers to include only their software and no other. They have tried to prohibit manufacturers from selling PC's without an operating system. They charged manufacturers for a copy of the Windows OS even if they did not ship it. Even today, it's virtually impossible to buy a PC with no operating system from a major manufacturer.

I am aware of the false error messages planted in the Windows 3.x beta product that were produced when running on DR DOS which killed that software. They gave away an inferior web browser simply to crush a technically superior product just because they could. They have operated under and ignored a previous consent decree designed to reign in their behavior. They have lied in court, produced false evidence, faked ignorance of e-mails. They had a "Contest" among PC manufacturers to report people who buy PC's with no operating system installed.

Following are some of the remedies that I would like to see. I believe that they would go a long way towards opening up competition in the software industry.

1. Force Microsoft to open up their complete API's. That's every one of them.
2. Prohibit Microsoft from changing any API's unless published first.
3. Force Microsoft to open Windows source code to companies that make competing software.

Also, Microsoft should pay a fine based on the severity of their monopoly conviction. I believe that this fine should be large and be based on the profits that were gained from their monopolistic behavior.

I am aware that some of my points may seem trivial and not connected to the anti-trust trial. The trial points are clear and well known. I wanted to present some other points that may or may not be so well known as reasons for my sending this e-mail.

Thank you for your time.

Dennis Cottrell
dcottrell6@home.com

